



Catchment Management Plans & Catchment Community Fora

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14th June 2023

*EPA Water Conference
Galway*

Draft River Basin Management Plan

New Actions:

- Draft River Basin Management Plan
 - 46 Catchment management plans
 - County level implementation plans
- Increased public participation in River Basin Management



Action: LAWPRO, in consultation with stakeholders, to produce templates for the catchment management plans that will be put in place for each of the 46 hydrometric catchments.



Action: Examine ways in which further support can be provided for the formation and capacity building of local forums to help identify and implement measures.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland

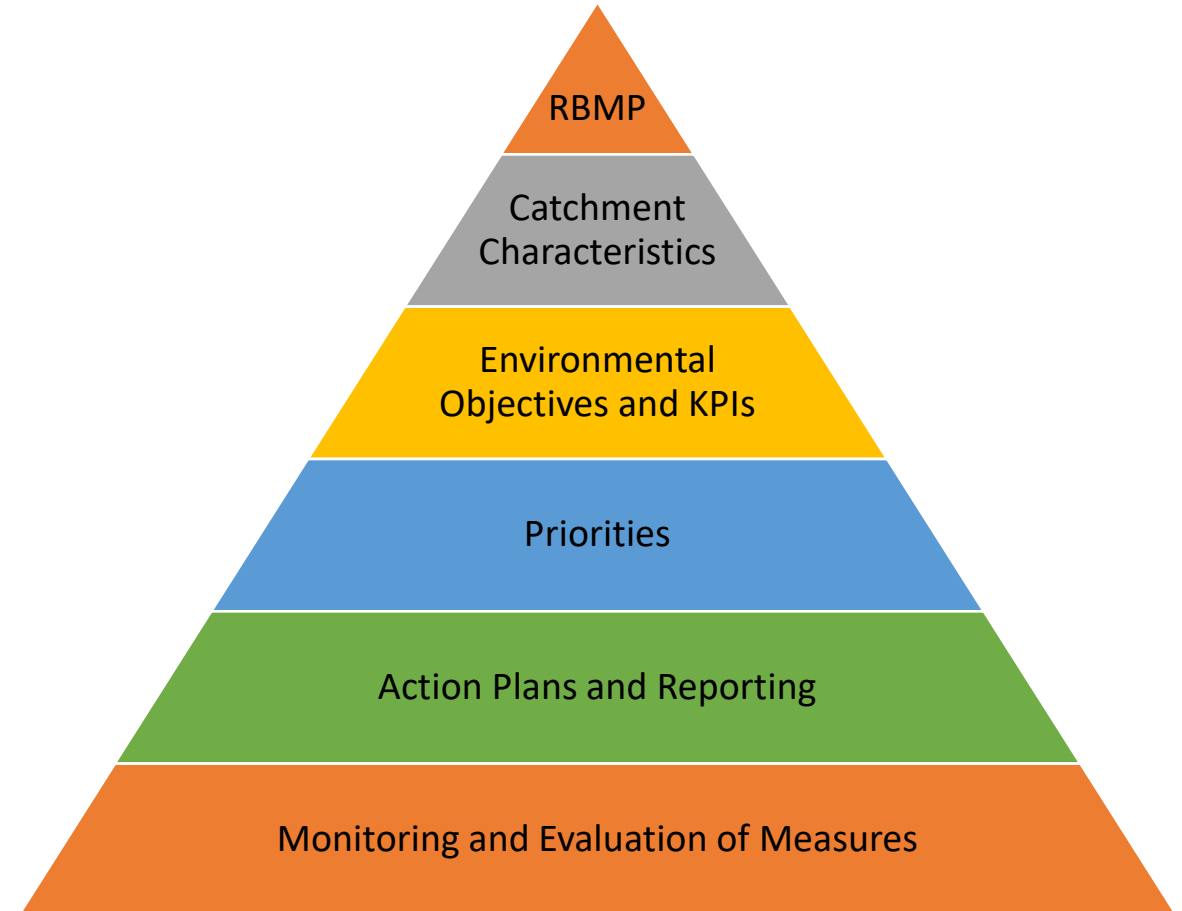
2022 - 2027



Prepared by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
www.gov.ie/housing

Proposed Structure: Catchment Management Plan

1. Introduction –
 - i. RBMP POMs
 - ii. Roles and Responsibilities – all parties
 - iii. Plan Development Steps
2. Catchment Characteristics
3. Environmental Objectives & KPIs
4. Catchment Priorities (guiding principles)
5. **Sectoral Action Plans and Implementation reporting & frequency**
6. Monitoring and Evaluation



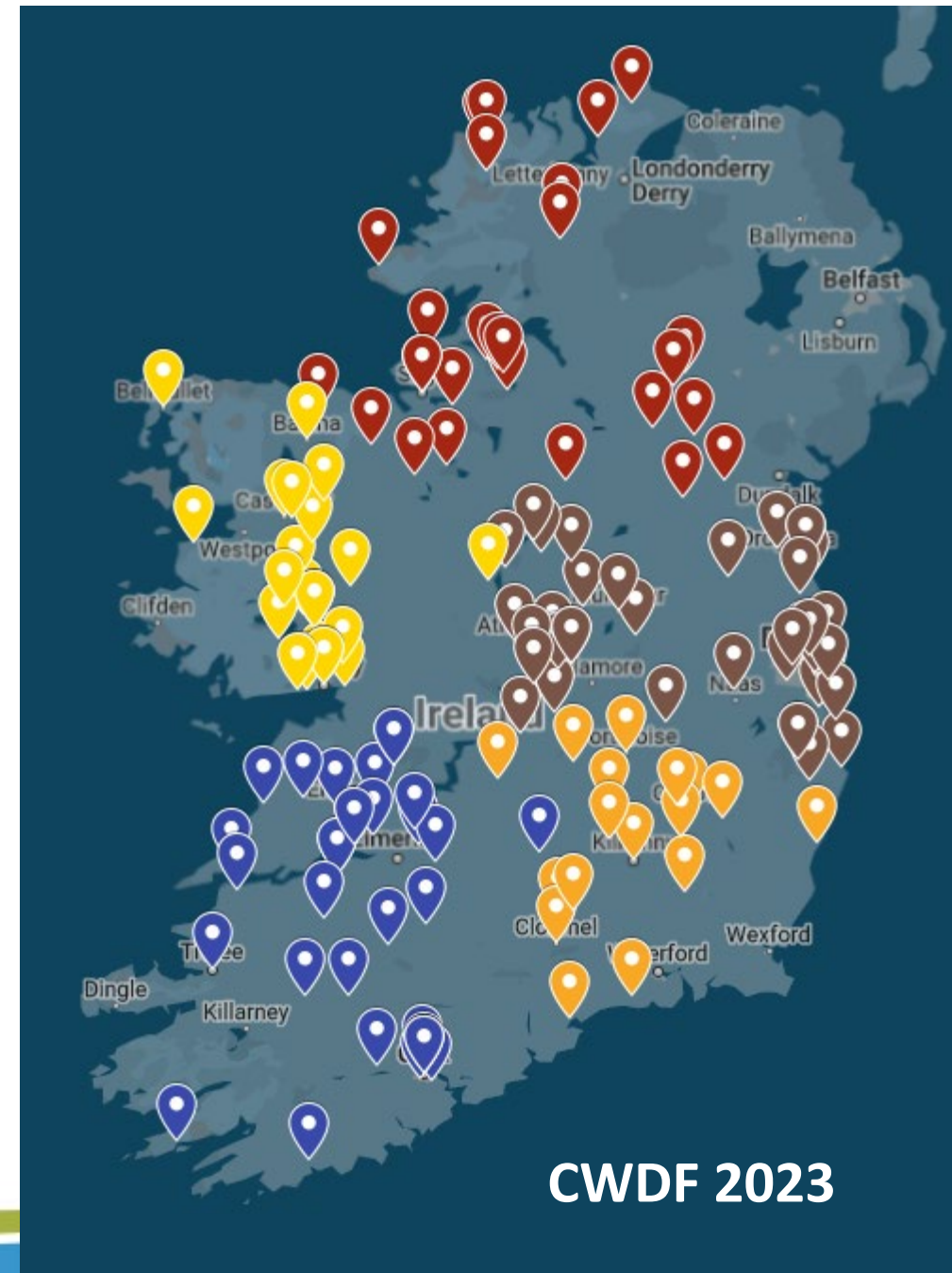
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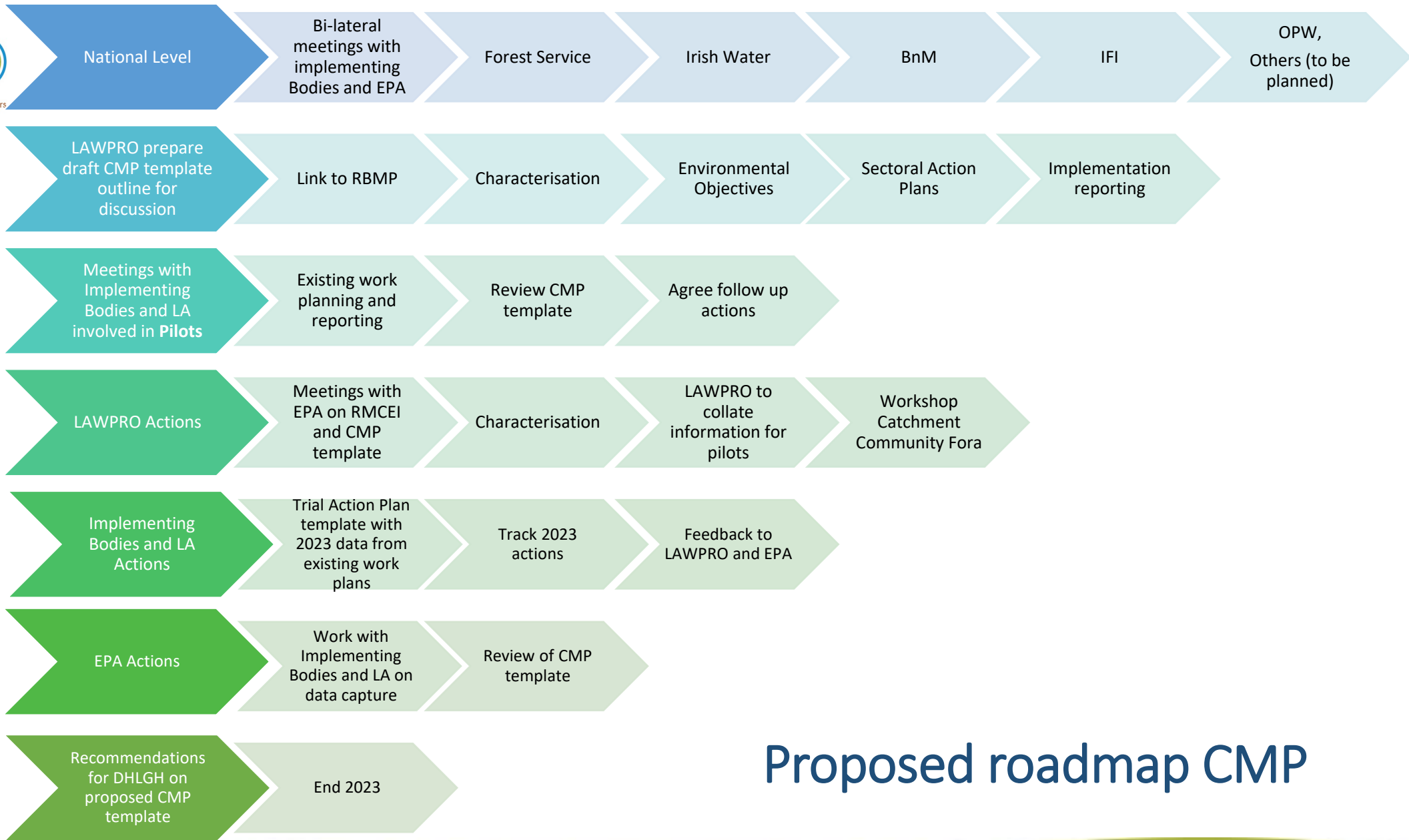
Sectoral Action Plans – Objectives

- Core of Catchment Management Plans.
- Where all actions will be tracked in relation to implementation of measures
- Direct linkage between characterisation, implementation of measures and environmental objectives for each water body. Improved targeting of measures.
- Key Performance Indicators to be set in consultation with implementing bodies: for example
 - Yearly progress on tonnes N reduction in the estuary.
 - Number of High-Status WBs.
 - Number in-stream barriers removed.
 - Number of WBs achieving their WFD objectives.
 - Number of improvements and declines in status.
 - Number of wastewater treatment plants as significant pressures.
 - Conservation status of water dependent qualifying interests in SACs?
 - Proportion of Protected areas with their objectives met.
 - Etc.

Communities & the CMP

- Communities are interested in understanding the local water quality issues and what was being done about them by implementing bodies.
- Communities are interested in finding out what individuals and groups can do to help bring about water quality improvements in their local areas or catchments.
- A lot of work happening that benefits water quality, biodiversity and communities supported by funding such as the Community Water Development Fund - €520,000 for 142 Project in 2023. But also Catchment Groups, Rivers Trusts and local communities groups are carrying out increasingly more ambitious projects.
- LAWPRO would like to see community actions being mapped and tracked within the CMPs. Pilot process will examine the interactions, synergies etc.





Proposed roadmap CMP

The draft RBMP has proposed 5 Principal Actions in relation to public participation:

- Evaluate the outcome of the Resilience Project for Rivers Trusts to inform future community engagement initiatives (LAWPRO)
- **Examine ways in which further support can be provided for the formation and capacity building of local fora to help identify and implement measures (LAWPRO)**
- Increase the level of funding under the Community Water Development Fund (DHLGH)
- Explore opportunities for the development of a national citizen science programme (DHLGH)
- An Fóram Uisce to identify the optimum level of engagement with the implementation structures for the WFD as part of their strategic planning process

An additional action, under Structural/Societal Measures – Implementation /Governance

- Ensure further activation, development and support of local level initiatives (rivers trusts, catchment partnerships)



The Role of Local Fora

- Information sharing
 - Catchment science & Environmental Objectives
 - Catchment Management Plans & Local Knowledge
- Capacity building
 - Citizen Science
 - Climate, Biodiversity and Water Training
 - Other course delivery e.g., via i-Catch network
 - Water literacy/Water stewardship
 - etc
- Actions and Outcomes for Water
 - Vision
 - Community Action Plan via Catchment Groups?
 - Co-creation projects
 - Guiding principles/prioritisation
- Inform and Influence Policy
 - Maximise linkages with other relevant plans, programme strategies, e.g. Biodiversity Action plan, Climate Action Plan
 - Translation of National to Local.
 - Catchment Management Plans
 - River Basin Management Plan



Action: Examine ways in which further support can be provided for the formation and capacity building of local forums to help identify and implement measures.



Scoping Workshops in Pilot Catchments - Fora

When: expected in Autumn 2023

Purpose: A series of local workshops will be held in Autumn 2023. These will give local communities and stakeholders a chance to co-design the Catchment Community Fora, thereby empowering communities to become more actively involved in catchment management.

Where: In each of the 5 Pilot Catchments

How: Facilitated community engagement to co-design / develop recommendations for the establishment of 5 Catchment Community Fora in the 5 Pilot Catchments in 2024

Coordinated by: LAWPRO with support from consultant

Post Pilots: Learnings from the Pilots will inform a methodology and funding for the establishment of fora in other catchments.

Ongoing Work in support of the RBMP

- LAWPROs Communities Team will continue to assist in bringing communities together, support the development of projects, and delivery of projects. LAWPRO will continue to support the setting up of Catchment Associations, River Trusts, and catchment partnerships. We will continue to support collaborative projects between implementing bodies & LAWPRO, implementing bodies & communities etc.
- LAWPRO are reviewing the structure of the Community Water Development Fund with a view to targeting specific topics e.g. Nature Based Solutions, Citizen Science, increasing financial supports to groups etc.
- Finalising the review of the Resilience Project – with funding model proposals to be made to DHLGH this summer.



Action: Ensure further activation, development and support of local level initiatives (rivers trusts, catchment partnerships).



Action: Increase the level of funding under the Community Water Development Fund.



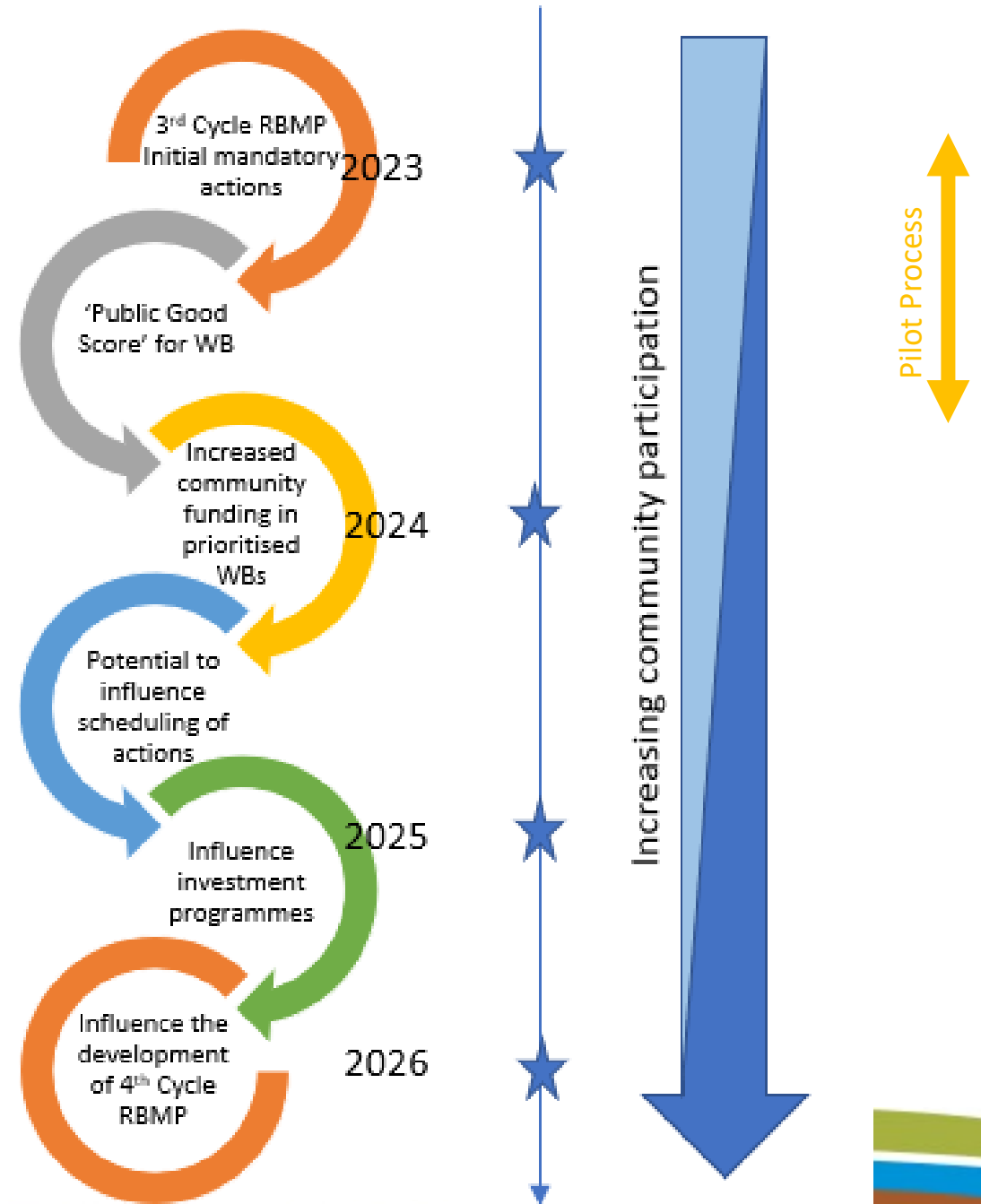
Action: Ensure further activation, development and support of local level initiatives (rivers trusts, catchment partnerships).



Action: Evaluate the outcome of the Resilience Project for Rivers Trusts to inform future community engagement initiatives.

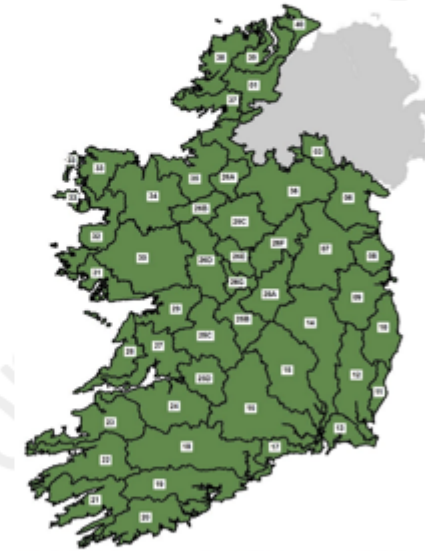
LAWPRO Ambition – Potential Timeline for increasing community participation

- Use the learning from Pilot to inform the rollout across other catchments
- As Fora develop and build their capacity, & increase supports so that they can influence water resource management greater into the coming years



Discussion Document –
will be available on LAWPRO
website next week.
Invitation to submit
comments

Catchment Management Planning
& Catchment Community Fora



Discussion Document
July 2023